

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 IO-13 OMB-01 ACDA-12 TRSE-00  
/123 W

-----013777 190610Z /14

R 171657Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9261  
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT HAVANA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 13093

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR EG CG  
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF GOE OFFICIALS ON ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS

REFS: (A) STATE 123864, (B) STATE 124005, (C) STATE  
- 125192, (D) CAIRO 13009

SUMMARY: ON BASIS REFTELS, AMBASSADOR AND EMBOFFS  
BRIEFED SADAT AND MFA ON SHABA INVASION. MFA OFFICIAL  
REMAINS PESSIMISTIC THAT FAZ CAN REACT EFFECTIVELY AND  
DISCOUNTS OAU ROLE. SOVIET HAND SEEN BEHIND SIMULTANEOUS  
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TIMING OF SHABA INVASION AND LAUNCHING OF OFFENSIVE IN  
ERITREA. SADAT NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT GOE DIRECT AS-  
SISTANCE BUT, ON BASIS OF DIRECT CONTACTS, BELIEVES KING  
HASSAN AND SAUDIS MIGHT PROVIDE EQUIPMENT. SADAT APPEARED  
FED UP WITH MOBUTU. GOE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS MOST  
NON-COMMUNIST MEMBERS DIPLOMATIC CORPS, UNANIMOUS IN  
BELIEVING THAT SHABA INVASION ONE MORE LINK IN SOVIET

CHAIN THROUGHOUT AFRICA THAT U.S. MUST TAKE LEAD IN  
BREAKING. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFFS BRIEFED MFA AFRICAN DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR AHMED  
SIDQI ON CONTENTS OF REFS A, B, AND C, MAY 17 AND  
REQUESTED THAT HE PASS INFO ON SOONEST TO FONMIN  
KAMEL IN RESPONSE TO KAMEL'S REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR  
(REF D).

2. IN RESPONSE, SIDQI REITERATED HIS PESSIMISM, NOTING  
THAT FAZ AIRDROP INTO KOLWEZI UNLIKELY TO SUCCEED  
DUE TO LOW FAZ MORALE AFTER RECENT PURGES. NOTING THAT  
U.S. 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION STANDING BY TO EVACUATE  
CIVILIANS FROM KOLWEZI AREA IF NECESSARY, SIDQI OPINED  
THAT WHAT WAS NEEDED TO SAVE MOBUTU WAS REAL AIRDROP  
BY COMBINED U.S.-FRENCH-BELGIAN PARATROOPERS TO SEIZE  
KOLWEZI AND BLUNT KATANGAN DRIVE. SIDQI DISMISSED ANY  
OAU ACTION TO FACE ZAIRE SITUATION AS "IMPOSSIBLE."  
"DON'T EVEN BOTHER TO ASK WHETHER OAU CAPABLE OF DEALING  
WITH SITUATION."

3. SOVIET HAND. SIDQI BELIEVES THAT VIRTUALLY SIMUL-  
TANEOUS ATTACK ON SHABA AND BEGINNING OF ETHIOPIAN  
OFFENSIVE IN ERITREA NO COINCIDENCE, BUT PLANNED IN  
MOSCOW.

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4. AMBASSADOR ALSO TOOK OCCASION OF CALL MAY 17 TO  
BRIEF PRESIDENT SADAT ON LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN SHABA.  
SADAT SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR FROM ZAIRE AMBASSADOR'S  
CALL ON FONMIN KAMEL YESTERDAY THAT ZAIRIAN GOVERNMENT  
SEEMED TO KNOW LITTLE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON. IT HAD MADE  
NO REQUEST FOR TANGIBLE ASSISTANCE FROM EGYPT. SADAT  
WAS, IN ANY CASE, NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ANY DIRECT  
ASSISTANCE FROM GOE, RECALLING THAT LAST YEAR EGYPTIAN  
PILOTS HE HAD SENT HAD SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME IN HOTEL.  
GOE HAS RECENTLY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH KING HASSAN AND, WHILE  
HE PREOCCUPIED WITH SAHARA AND CANNOT HELP WITH TROOPS,  
HE MAY BE ABLE TO SUPPLY SOME EQUIPMENT. GOE HAS ALSO  
BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SAUDIS THROUGH VP MUBARAK. PRINCE  
TURKI IBN FAISAL MEETING WITH KING HASSAN TODAY, MAY 17,  
ON SITUATION. SADAT UNDERSTOOD SAUDIS MAY ALSO BE ABLE  
TO PROVIDE SOME EQUIPMENT. UNEXPECTEDLY, SADAT DID NOT  
SAY "I TOLD YOU SO" AND LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE IS  
SOMEWHAT FED UP WITH MOBUTU.

5. COMMENT: SIDQI PREDICTABLY SEIZED OPPORTUNITY TO  
AGAIN URGE DECISIVE USG ACTION TO COUNTER SOVIET-INSPIRED  
ACTION IN ZAIRE. DESPITE FACT THAT SIDQI HAS ALL ALONG

BEEN MOST ELOQUENT ADVOCATE OF HEIGHTENED U.S. PROFILE  
IN AFRICA, CAIRO DIPLOMATIC CORPS (EXCLUDING COMMUNISTS)  
AND OTHER GOE OFFICIALS UNANIMOUS ON SAME THEME: UNLESS  
USG DECISIVELY ACTS IN ZAIRE TO STEM WHAT IS PATENTLY  
SOVIET-INSPIRED AND CUBAN-DIRECTED ATTEMPT TO BRING DOWN  
MOBUTU, FRIENDS OF U.S. ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA WILL  
BE POWERLESS TO ACT TO STEM SOVIET DRIVE IN ZAIRE,  
IN ETHIOPIA, IN CHAD, AND, EVENTUALLY, IN ZIMBABWE. THESE  
COMMENTS OFTEN MADE "MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER" BUT  
ARE BECOMING VERY WIDESPREAD IN CAIRO. EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEBRIEFINGS, COMBAT OPERATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978CAIRO13093  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780210-0825  
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**Message ID:** 9f2c3e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 78 STATE 123864, 78 STATE 124005  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2670439  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BRIEFING OF GOE OFFICIALS ON ZAIRE DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PEPR, MOPS, EG, CG, US, (SADAT, ANWAR)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/9f2c3e9c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
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